

Introduction to WOAAH & its activities in safeguarding wildlife health



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WOAH SEA Wildlife Health
Network Meeting



World
Organisation
for Animal
Health

Organisation
mondiale
de la santé
animale

Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal



Index

- 1. What is WOAH?**
- 2. Animal disease reporting systems**
- 3. WOAH's Wildlife Health Strategy**
- 4. Wildlife Health initiatives & activities**
 - International Alliance Against Health Risks in Wildlife Trade
 - WOAH-CITES Regional Webinars
 - Update on Regional Activities 2025/2026



What is WOAH?



**The World Organisation
for Animal Health**
is the global authority on animal
health.

Our Mission:

To improve animal health
globally, thereby ensuring a
better future for all.

**Animal health is
everyone's health.**

Our focus:



TRANSPARENCY

Management of animal
health information



STANDARDS

Development of international
standards and the monitoring of
their implementation



CAPACITIES

Capacity building for animal
health professionals



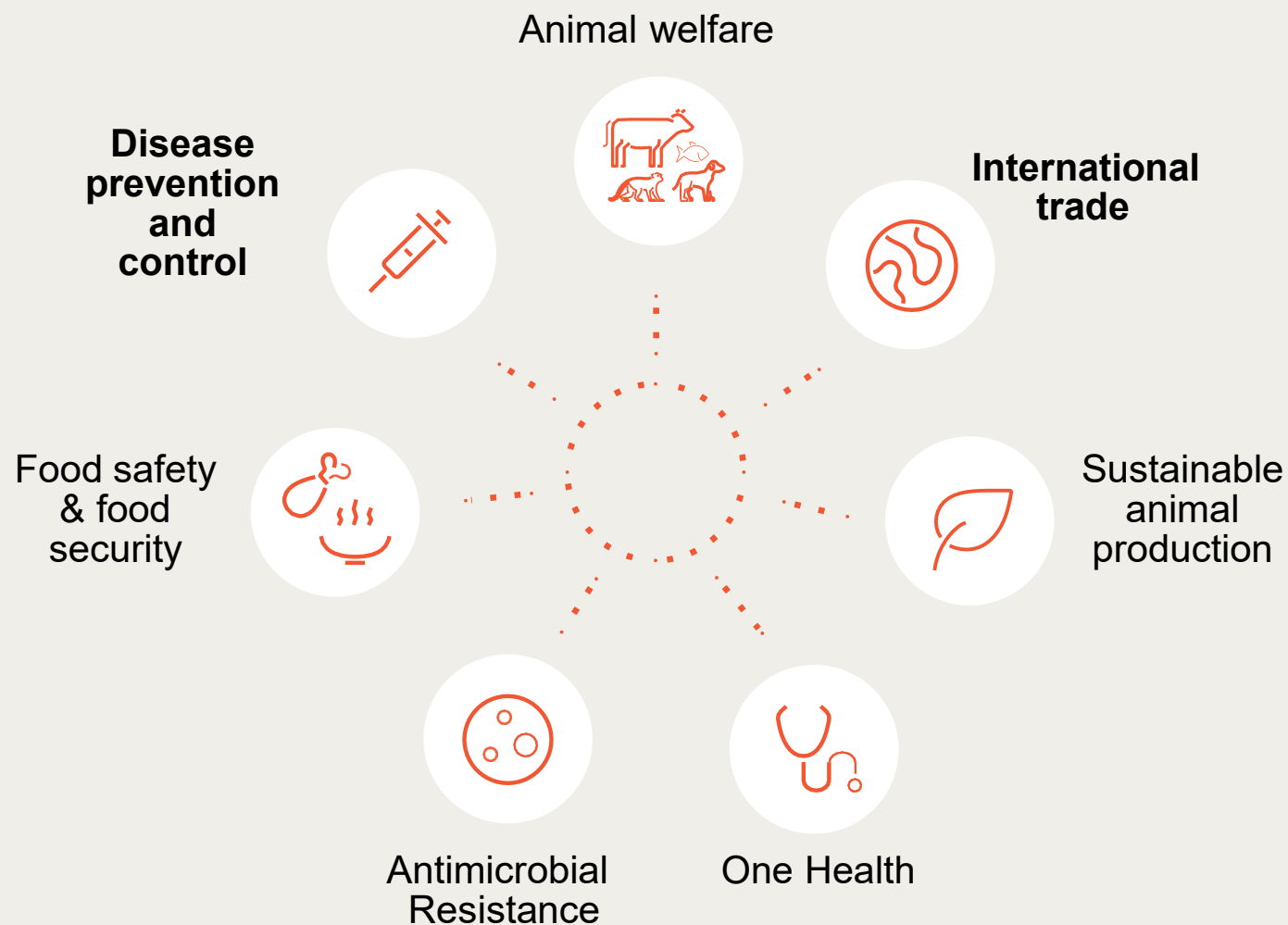
GLOBAL INITIATIVES

Development of global strategies
and in country support to roll-out

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION



Our main working areas





Our global presence

We work with **183 countries and territories**, and have
1 Head Quarters and 13 Regional and subregional representations



···· Regional and subregional representations



Structure & Governance

World Assembly of Delegates

Highest authority — Delegates of all Members

Council

President, Vice-President, Past President + 6 Delegates

Director General

Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran

Governance Review Committee

Reviews technical, financial, legal & institutional governance

Specialist Commissions

Terrestrial, Aquatic, Biological, Scientific

Regional Commissions

Africa, Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle East

Regional Representations

13 regional and subregional offices worldwide

Headquarters

Paris — implements Assembly resolutions

Ad hoc Groups

Examine specific scientific issues

Working Groups

Continually review field developments

Collaborating Centres

Expertise on designated topics

Reference Laboratories

Expertise on named diseases

Technical & Scientific Network



Focal Points for Wildlife

A national-level role, nominated by the Delegate, connecting country wildlife networks to WOAHH

WHERE IT SITS

World Assembly of Delegates

Highest authority - all Members

Delegate

Chief Veterinary Officer (typically)

Focal Point - Wildlife

Nominated by, and acts under, the Delegate

One of 8 thematic Focal Points nominated by the Delegate:

Animal Disease Notification · Aquatic Animals · Animal Production Food Safety · Animal Welfare · Communication · Veterinary Laboratories · Veterinary Products · Wildlife

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1 Build/coordinate the national wildlife expert network**
Establish a network of wildlife experts, or liaise with the existing one, in the territory.
- 2 Liaise with the Competent Authority for wildlife**
Maintain dialogue and facilitate cooperation where responsibility is shared across authorities.
- 3 Support wildlife disease reporting via WAHIS**
Immediate notifications, follow-up & six-monthly reports, and annual questionnaires — under the Delegate's authority.
- 4 Act as WOAHH's in-country contact point on wildlife**
Liaises with WOAHH's Animal Health Information Dept. and Scientific & Technical Dept.
- 5 Run domestic consultation on draft standards**
Reviews Working Group on Wildlife Diseases & Scientific Commission reports; consults national experts on draft Code text.
- 6 Prepare comments for the Delegate**
Reflects the national/regional view on new or revised WOAHH standards & guidelines related to wildlife.



Our actions

Our work helps create a healthier world.

We lead

global efforts to control animal diseases. In 2011, we succeeded in eradicating rinderpest. It is only the second disease to achieve this distinction after smallpox.

We ensure

the safe trade of animals and animal products across the world with our World Trade Organization recognised standards, recommendations and guidelines

We collect

disease information from all our Members and make it publicly available through our **World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS)** and **WildEpi**

Reporting wildlife disease data

*WAHIS and WildEpi are distinct, not overlapping, **complementary** systems*



WAHIS

World Animal Health Information System

- Official system for reporting of **listed diseases** only, per the Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes
- Data entered only by **Delegates** and **Focal Points only**
- Published data is the **official record**, validated by the country's Veterinary Services
- Once published, the data is **publically** available



WildEpi

Wildlife health information sharing system

- Complements WAHIS — covers **non-listed** wildlife health events
- Open to **wildlife and One Health stakeholders**
- **Voluntary** participation, secured by single sign-on. Non-official reporting system
- Data visible to the **community of users**, not the general public (for now)
- Serve different purposes, e.g. rapid risk assessment



Wildlife Health Strategy 2026-2030



Problem

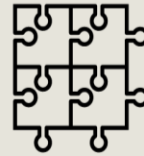
Increased contact between humans,
wildlife and livestock,

+

negative impacts on biodiversity from
unsustainable human activities



the emergence of diseases which may
threaten human and animal health



**Promote multisectoral
coordination and
collaboration** to
operationalize the
One health approach



**Strengthen capacity in
wildlife health management**
for veterinary services



**Improve reporting and
analysis of quality wildlife
health data** to improve global
surveillance systems



**Update and develop relevant
international standards and
guidelines** related to wildlife
health

Solutions



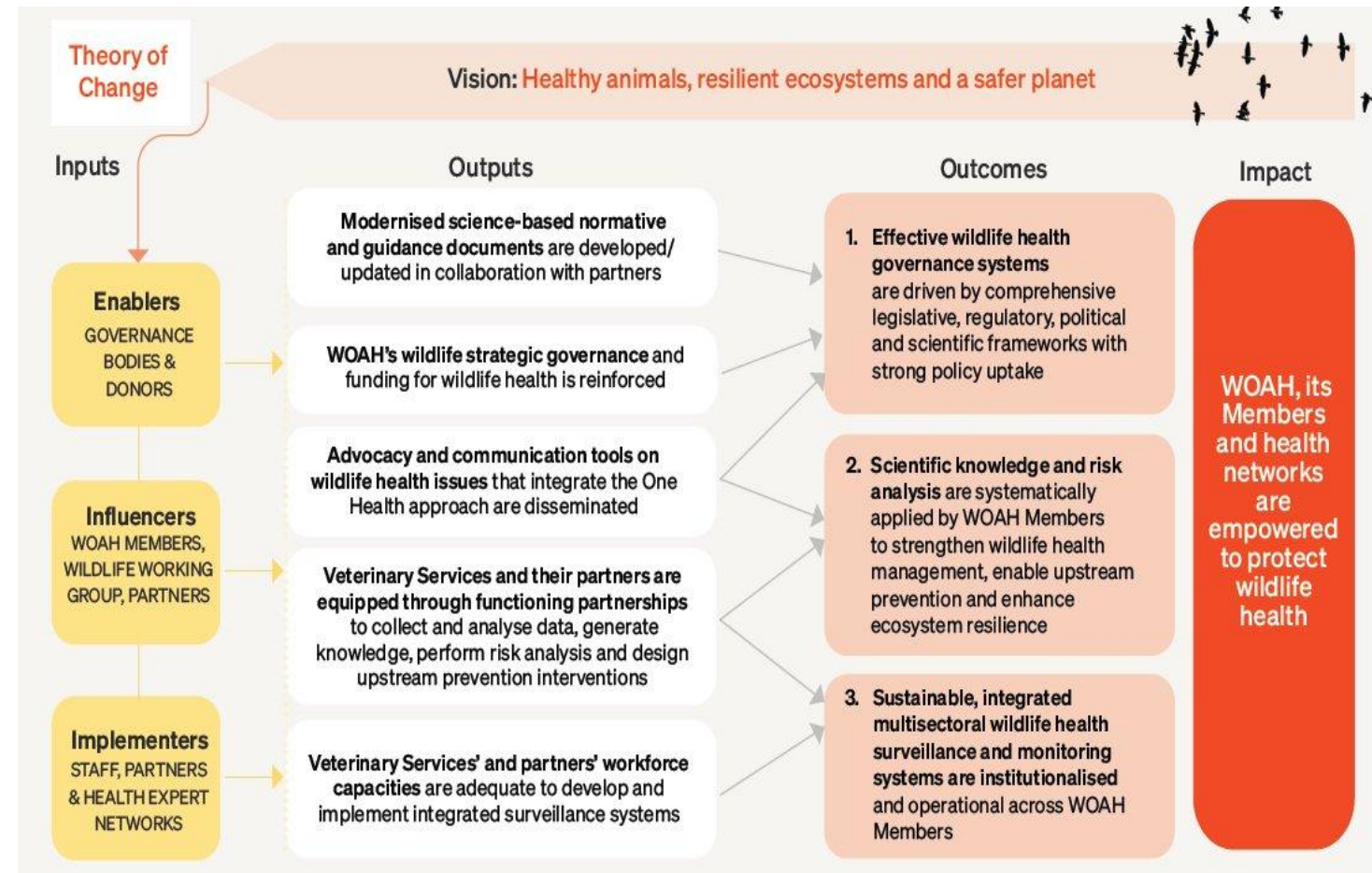
**Dissemination of scientific
knowledge** to address risks
and identify best practices in
wildlife health



Awareness and advocacy
to integrate wildlife health
issues into veterinary
services' priorities

From framework to strategy:

- Transversal **One Health** approach
- **Wildlife welfare** embedded in wildlife health
- **Strengthening operational delivery**
(focus on practical mechanisms at regional level)
- **Resource mobilisation** strategy to ensure sustainability
- **Partnership enhancement**
- **Enhancing data systems**, reporting incentives
(e.g. WildEpi)
- **Alignment with the WOA 8th Strategic Plan**





Wildlife health activities

A photograph of a paved road winding through a savanna landscape. Several giraffes are visible: one in the foreground on the left, one in the center of the road, one on the right side of the road, and another further back on the right. The background is filled with dense green trees and shrubs under a clear sky.

WOAH

some wildlife health activities and initiatives



International **Alliance**
Against **Health Risks** in
Wildlife Trade



WOAH-CITES regional
webinar series



International Alliance Against Health Risks in Wildlife trade



International **Alliance** against **Health Risks** in **Wildlife Trade**

A **global network** of over 180 organisations and
500+ experts working to **prevent and reduce**
the risks of zoonotic spillovers
along **wildlife trade chain**.

<https://alliance-health-wildlife.org/>



What the Alliance does

Knowledge sharing & generation

Capacity building

Funding pilot projects

Awareness-raising

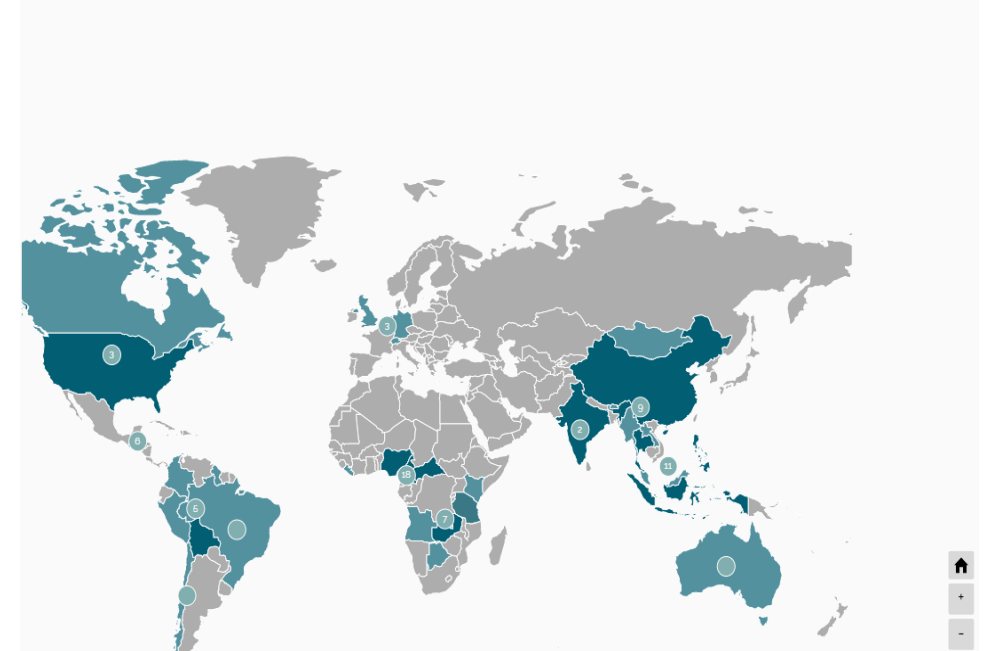
International science-policy implementation
(enhancing & influencing policies)

Advisory support services
(Governments)



Focus on **primary prevention** of zoonotic spillover risks

Projects





WOAH-CITES Webinar series

Upcoming Regional Webinar Series

Objectives:

1. Present **mandates and provisions of CITES and WOAHA** and their intersections
2. Raise awareness on **veterinary certification** (safety of the international wild animal trade) and **CITES permitting** (for animal diagnostic samples)
3. Understand **roles and responsibilities of stakeholders** involved in wild animal trade
4. Encourage **collaboration between CITES Management & Scientific Authorities + from Veterinary Services or Wildlife Authorities**
5. Enhance **coordination and communication**

Dates and time:

Middle East: 23 September, 10:00–12:00 CET

Americas: 28 September, 16:00–18:00 CET

Europe: 7 October, 10:00–12:00 CET

Africa: 12 November, 10:00–12:00 CET

Asia-Pacific: Mid-March 2027. TBC later this year



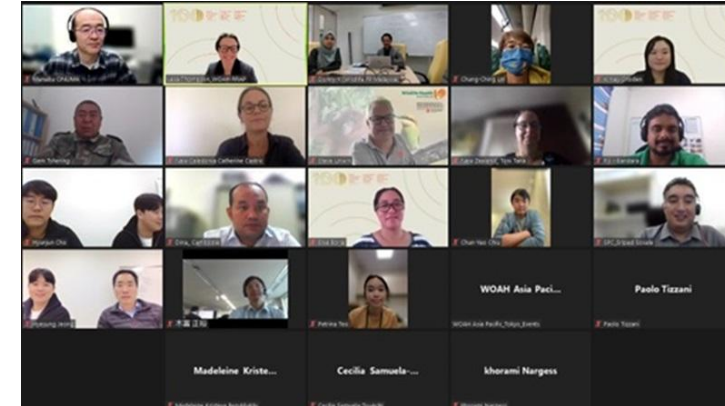


Regional Updates



Review of regional activities in 2025/2026

- WOAHA Wildlife Health Networks annual information sharing meeting in Asia & the Pacific (12 Feb, virtual)
 - Sharing progress from networks & promoting World Wildlife Day
- WOAHA Sub-regional Wildlife Health Network events
 - **East Asia:** “LPAI in wildlife”, “HPAI in sea mammals” , “National networking for wildlife health”
 - **South Asia:** Meetings 5&6
 - **South-East Asia:** coordination meetingsX4 2025 and X3 2026
 - **Pacific:** “Leptospirosis and wildlife health in the Pacific” , “One Health governance and implementation in Oceania”, “Antimicrobial Resistance and the Pacific: A One Health and Wildlife Health issue”





World Wildlife Day 2025

- Wildlife Encounters
- Traditional Food stand
- Mosquitoes and dengue
- Ticks and Crimean-Congo Haemorrhagic Fever ((

Wildlife encounters

- [English](#) ([download file](#))
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- [Filipino / Tagalog](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- [Malay](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- [Thai](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- [Chinese](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- [Indonesian](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))
- *NEW [Vietnamese](#)
 - Social media cards ([static](#), [animated](#))





WILDLIFE

Workshop: risk-based management of spillover events in wildlife in Vietnam



FEBRUARY 18, 2025 - FEBRUARY 19, 2025

- Focused on **spillover risk management** between wildlife, livestock, and humans.
- Conducted with **FAO, WHO, and UNEP** to strengthen pandemic preparedness.
- Aimed to **build Vietnam's capacity** for risk-based disease management.
- **Objectives:**
 - Enhance understanding of **risk analysis and management**.
 - Identify **gaps** in national risk systems.
 - Strengthen **stakeholder communication and coordination**.



MULTISECTORAL COORDINATION

Risk analysis of spillover events in wildlife in Asia

- **WOAH Multisectoral Workshops on Spillover Risk (India, Japan, Vietnam)**
- Promoted One Health collaboration and data sharing across animal, human, and environmental sectors.
- **65 participants** surveyed on surveillance, communication, and coordination gaps.
- **Main barriers:** limited financial and human resources, weak information systems, lack of legislation and expertise.
- **Wildlife surveillance:** mainly passive, with few active systems; common diseases—HPAI, CSF, rabies.
- **Communication:** largely informal; limited formal frameworks for data sharing.
- **Next steps:** expand stakeholder engagement, build capacity, standardize protocols, and strengthen digital data systems.

[Home](#) > [Events](#) > [WOAH at the 18th ASCM Conference 2025](#)

WOAH at the 18th ASCM Conference 2025



Workshop focus and outcomes

- The role of wildlife disease surveillance in biodiversity conservation and One Health
- Practical application of the IUCN/WOAH Guidelines, including operational, biosafety, ethical and legal considerations
- Strengthening participant confidence in applying surveillance principles through scenario-based learning

ONE HEALTH

Cambodia wildlife trade: Implementing WOAHA guidelines for addressing disease risks

Dates: 2-5 February 2026

Venue: Siem Reap, Cambodia

The workshop aimed to:

- Apply the WOAHA Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risks in Wildlife Trade to selected Cambodian wildlife trade supply chains.
- Strengthen national capacity in hazard identification, risk assessment, and risk management under a One Health framework.
- Identify critical control points and feasible risk reduction measures aligned with national regulatory systems.
- Enhance multisectoral collaboration among relevant authorities and stakeholders.
- Identify practical next steps for national-level implementation.



National One Health and Biodiversity Workshop

Lao PDR in March 2026

Representatives from government agencies, research institutions and community organizations convened to discuss:

- How stronger cross-sector collaboration can support healthier ecosystems and communities.
- What are the country's priorities for advancing and strengthening the One Health approach through integration of environmental dimensions



WOAH launches wildlife health stakeholder mapping survey in Asia and the Pacific



- This initiative aims to strengthen regional engagement and collaboration by improving understanding of the stakeholders involved in wildlife health, their areas of work, and their priority needs.
- The results will support evidence-based planning of future regional activities, including the development and coordination of wildlife health networks.



Upcoming events

- SEA Workshop – Networking of CITES FP and NWFPs
- WOAHA at ASCM 2026 - Oct
- Regional NWFP training (late Oct 2026)
- WOAHA Wildlife Health Networks
 - Regional: Annual information sharing meeting, Feb 2027 (virtual)
 - Sub-regional Networks – webinars and coordination meetings

Regional WOA H website

- Check out the Wildlife Health page for lots more information!



Thank you!

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Photo by Coleen Rivas on Unsplash

Singapore, August 2026

WOAH SEA Wildlife Health Network Meeting